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FCC MAIL ROOM

96-98

July 23, 2001

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Suite TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Second Supplement to the Georgia Public Service
Commission's Petition for Additional Delegated Authority to
Implement Number Conservation Measures**

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed please find one original and six copies of the Second Supplement to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Petition for Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number conservation Measures. Please date-stamp and return one copy in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Sincerely,

Lauren McDonald, Jr.
Chairman, Georgia Public Service Commission

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

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AUG 01 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

In the Matter of

Implementation of the Local Competition)	
Provisions of the Telecommunications)	CC Docket No. <u>96-98</u> and 99-200
Act of 1996)	

**SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION'S PETITION
FOR ADDITIONAL DELEGATED AUTHORITY
TO IMPLEMENT NUMBER CONSERVATION MEASURES**

The Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC), as part of its Docket Nos. 9066-U and 12736-U, hereby supplements its Petitions for additional delegated authority pertaining to number conservation measures.¹ In its original Petition, the GPSC sought additional authority to implement number conservation measures in the State of Georgia that would help ensure that number resources were made available on an efficient, equitable and timely basis to all carriers and slow the pace of the need for area code relief. On March 31, 2000, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued its initial Numbering Conservation Order (FCC Numbering Order).² With the release of the FCC Numbering Order, the FCC adopted a number of administrative and technical measures allowing it to monitor more closely the way numbering resources are used within the North American Numbering Plan, as well as promote more efficient use of numbering resources. In its supplemental Petition, the GPSC requested that the FCC include the Atlanta MSA in its initial round of thousands-block national number pooling. The GPSC hereby modifies its Petitions to further request that the FCC grant the GPSC authority to institute

¹ *The Georgia Public Service Commission's Petition for Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures*, CC Docket No. 96-98, Filed November 19, 1999, and *Supplement to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Petition for Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures*, CC Docket No. 96-98.

² *Numbering Resource Optimization Order*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 15 FCC Rcd 7574 (2000).

thousands-block number pooling in the Columbus, Augusta, Albany, Savannah and Macon areas, specifically the 706, 229, 912 and 478 NPAs (the Affected NPAs).

I. BACKGROUND

In its original Petition, the GPSC requested additional authority to implement number conservation measures in the State of Georgia. Specifically, the GPSC requested authority to: (1) institute thousands-block number pooling; (2) order the return of unused and reserved NXX codes; (3) set NXX code allocation standards; and (4) require submission of utilization data. The GPSC intended to utilize the additional delegated authority to slow the pace of the need for area code relief in the State of Georgia.

In the FCC Numbering Order, the FCC addressed the majority of the concerns raised by the GPSC in its original Petition. Specifically, the FCC directed state commissions seeking thousands-block number pooling authority to demonstrate that: (1) an NPA in its state is in jeopardy; (2) the NPA in question has a remaining life span of at least a year; and (3) that the NPA is in one of the largest 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), or alternatively, the majority of wireline carriers in the NPA are LNP-capable.³ The GPSC determined that the Atlanta MSA did not meet the prescribed criteria for a delegation of pooling authority. Therefore, the GPSC modified its original Petition to request that the FCC include the Atlanta MSA in its initial round of thousands-block national number pooling. The GPSC continues to believe that inclusion of the Atlanta MSA in the first round of implementation of thousands-block number pooling scheduled to begin in March, 2002 will delay the premature exhaust of a new NPA and avoid the expense and confusion of repeated area code relief measures.

In addition, the GPSC is facing difficult problems as it attempts to conserve NXX codes in areas outside the Atlanta MSA. In separate dockets, the GPSC has instituted extensive numbering conservation measures. For example, as part of its Docket No. 9066-U, the GPSC, faced with the exhaustion of Central Office codes in the 912 area code, approved a three-way geographic split dividing the 912 NPA. The relief plan approved by the GPSC approved a 912 area code for the Savannah LATA, a 229 area code for the Albany LATA, and a 478 area code for the 912 portion of the Augusta LATA and the Macon LATA. The effective date of the new area codes is August 1, 2001.

³ *Numbering Resource Optimization Order*, 15 FCC Rcd 7652.

On November 9, 2000, representatives of the North American Numbering Plan Administration ("NANPA") informed the GPSC that without any means of relief, Georgia would exhaust the supply of Central Office codes in the 706 area code by the fourth quarter of 2002. After a hearing in Docket No. 12736-U at which four relief alternatives for the 706 area code were discussed, the GPSC determined that it was not appropriate to approve a new code assignment for the 706 area. The GPSC did, however, direct that certain numbering resource conservation measures be pursued in the 706 NPA, as well as the 678, 912, 229 and 478 NPAs. Specifically, the GPSC ordered:

1. That the initial codes within the 706, 678, 912, 229 and 478 NPAs shall not be requested until the requesting party has certified to NANPA that equipment has been purchased and is in place or will be in place and ready to turn up service to customers within 60 days of the code effective date.

2. That for expansion codes there must be 60% utilization in the rate center for the existing code before requesting an expansion code. The 60% threshold is to increase to 75% in increments of 5% over the next 3 years, with the first 5% increase on June 30, 2002, and annually thereafter until the utilization threshold reaches 75% on June 30, 2004.

3. That the first 1,000 block of 10,000 numbers shall be utilized before opening the second 1,000 block and the second block shall be utilized before opening the third in sequence until the last block is exhausted with the following exception:

4. That a carrier that opens a clean block prior to its utilization in its entirety of a previously opened thousands-block shall be prepared to demonstrate to the GPSC a genuine request from a customer detailing the specific need for a large quantity of telephone numbers, and the inability on the part of the carrier to meet the specific customer request for a large quantity of telephone numbers within the carrier's currently activated thousands-block.

5. That no vanity numbers or special request numbers shall be assigned outside of the current 1,000 block that is open for utilization.

6. That if an assigned code is not activated within 6 months from the date it is assigned from the LERG and, certified to NANPA by the submission of the Part 4 form it shall be turned back in to NANPA for reassignment.

7. That holders of these NPAs shall submit to the Commission utilization data reports every 6 months showing for each the rate center the NXX codes in 1,000 blocks, with the issue dates, and the number of activated customer access lines for each. The first report for the period ending August 1, 2001

shall be due September 1, 2001, with the second report for the period ending February 1, 2002 due March 1, 2002, with subsequent reports filed every six months thereafter.

Despite the GPSC's efforts, numbering resource difficulties in Georgia continue to escalate, and the GPSC seeks additional authority at this time to institute thousands-block number pooling in the Affected NPAs.

II. DISCUSSION

As discussed above, the FCC has adopted a national framework for thousands-block number pooling and a rollout schedule for implementing pooling in the 100 largest MSAs. NeuStar, Inc. has been selected as the National Thousands-Block Number Pooling Administrator, and the first round of implementation of thousands-block number pooling is scheduled to commence in March, 2002, with an initial concentration on NPAs in the top 100 MSAs. National number pooling for NPAs outside of the top 100 MSAs will not commence until much later. The GPSC believes that further number conservation efforts in the Columbus, Augusta, Albany, Savannah and Macon areas cannot wait that long.

The FCC has determined that it will continue to grant states' requests for authority to implement number conservation measures, including thousands-block number pooling. The FCC continues to permit states to implement individual pooling trials through individual requests for additional delegation of authority. The FCC directed state commissions seeking thousands-block number pooling authority to demonstrate that: (1) the NPA is in jeopardy; (2) the NPA in question has a remaining life span of at least one year; and (3) the NPA is in one of the largest 100 MSAs, or alternatively, the majority of the wireline carriers in the NPA are LNP-capable. The FCC recognized, however, that there may be "special circumstances" in which pooling would be beneficial in NPAs that do not meet all of the above criteria. The FCC stated that it may authorize pooling in such an NPA upon a satisfactory showing of such special circumstances. The GPSC is therefore filing this Petition requesting such authority, and setting forth the "special circumstances" that exist in the Affected NPAs.

Although each of the Affected NPAs has a remaining life span of at least one year, and the majority of the wireline carriers in the Affected NPAs are LNP-capable, none of the Affected NPAs are

presently in a jeopardy situation. However, the GPSC believes that “special circumstances” exist, and that a thousands-block number pool trial is necessary to conserve number resources.

The GPSC has been investigating telephone numbering issues and area code relief since 1997, and has a history of sustained action on numbering issues. In addition to the numbering resource conservation measures described in Section I above, the GPSC has ordered an all services overlay and added a new area code, 470, to relieve the 770, 678 and 404 area codes. The GPSC has also worked closely with representatives of the telecommunications industry in Georgia to address numbering conservation issues. As a result, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. is implementing rate center consolidation in the Atlanta metropolitan area, with a scheduled completion date of July 28, 2001.

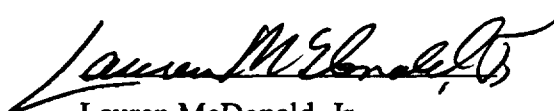
Despite the GPSC’s continuing efforts, numbering resource difficulties in Georgia continue to escalate. The rapid population increase in the State of Georgia makes it extremely difficult for the GPSC to predict with certainty when the Affected NPAs will exhaust, and could cause quick depletion of numbering resources if number pooling is not implemented. Additionally, the rapid depletion of numbering resources has forced the repeated conservation measures described herein, including area code relief. The GPSC believes that “special circumstances” exist in the Affected NPAs, and that a number pooling trial is essential to protect numbering resources. The implementation of thousands-block number pooling in the Affected NPAs will help prolong the life of the Affected NPAs by efficiently allocating numbering resources.

III. CONCLUSION

The GPSC continues to support the FCC’s efforts to address the number resource exhaust problem at a national level. The GPSC continues to believe that numbering resources may be utilized more efficiently if the FCC grants the relief requested in the GPSC’s Supplement to its Petition for Additional Delegated Authority and includes any new NPA in the Atlanta MSA in the initial round or rounds of the national rollout of thousands-block number pooling. The GPSC also believes that “special circumstances” exist in the 706, 229, 912 and 478 NPAs and that thousands-block number pooling is necessary to preserve numbering resources in these areas. In order to ensure more efficient number utilization and protect the customers of telecommunications services in Georgia from the repeated expense and confusion of area code relief measures, the GPSC respectfully requests that the FCC, consistent with the authority granted to other states who have NPAs that are not in jeopardy, and have made a showing of “special

circumstances", grant the relief requested in this Petition and grant the GPSC authority to implement thousands-block number pooling in the 706, 229, 912 and 478 NPAs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren McDonald, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lauren McDonald, Jr.

Chairman

GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

244 Washington Street

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

July 23, 2001